

Herald Union



Vol. XI, No. 19

Serving the military communities of the 104th Area Support Group

July 6, 2004



Photo by Karl Weisel

A 2-501st Aviation Blackhawk helicopter touches down just outside the ancient city of Babylon near al-Hillah, Iraq, to pick up 1st Armored Division Soldiers June 21.

**Special edition: Iraq
— 14 months later**

Paving way for the future

By Karl Weisel

**104th Area Support Group Public
Affairs Office**

After 14 months in Iraq members of 1st Armored Division were beginning the process of wrapping up the mission and packing up to leave — for the second time. The overall mood was subdued — as several Soldiers observed, “You can fool me once, but you can’t fool me twice.”

As the end of the extension neared people were simply holding tightly on to the hope that this time they

would be heading home for real.

Meanwhile at Camp Ferrin-Huggins, members of the 127th Military Police Company were settling in for the long haul. Having arrived in Iraq in late May 2004, the Darmstadt, Hanau and Baumholder-based MPs were still in the process of training Iraqi Police, fortifying their living quarters against regular mortar attacks and getting a handle on life (and death) in and around Baghdad.

“They’re glad we’re here,” said 1st Lt. Erik Archer, executive officer

for the 127th MPs, about the Iraqi Police at one of the many stations in West Baghdad his unit has been supporting. “But if there was any fighting most of them (the IPs) would leave.”

Like Archer, who carries around a bag of lollipops for the children he meets on the streets of the capital city, Spc. Bryan Bailey, a crew chief on a 2-501st Aviation Blackhawk, keeps his eyes open all the time for friends and foes alike. In his case, while holding tightly onto his helicopter’s machine gun, one hand

is always ready to let go and wave to the many children who do likewise as the chopper patrols the skies overhead.

Iraq is still an extremely dangerous place. The threat of an attack is always there — whether one is out on patrol or sleeping in a tent at one of the many Forward Operating Bases scattered throughout the country.

As the transfer of sovereignty approached June 28, as predicted, insurgents were doing everything possible to bring even more instability to the fledgling government by killing and maiming people of all nationalities, ages, religious backgrounds and political persuasions.

But despite the constant threat from those determined to wreak havoc and cause harm, enormous changes continue to unfold. Electrical power and water have been restored, children are in renovated schools, more and more people have jobs and hope for the future exists.

And those risking their lives in a faraway country who have wit-

nessed the changes firsthand say it is an effort worth fighting for. Like Americans everywhere they do it with compassion and a sense of humor.

“Hooray we’re home,” remarked one Soldier to a round of laughter from his fellow passengers aboard a flight as it touched down in Kuwait on its way back from R&R leave. “Let’s just hope that no one gets shot in our unit this time,” added a fellow traveler, to general “hoo-ahs” from the same people who had laughed moments earlier.

Another memory that sticks out as being unique to the times we live in is an announcement heard at the military terminal at the Kuwait Airport June 20:

“Attention — to all those fathers in the terminal today, Happy Father’s Day. And to all those mothers in the terminal who play both mother and father to their kids, Happy Father’s Day, too.”

Read on for more stories and photos about the men and women serving in Kuwait and Iraq.

Inside



Feedback

“I’m looking forward to a real hot shower and a nice, cold beer after a hot shower,” said Sgt. Shawn Shelton, 501st Military Police Company, in anticipation of leaving Iraq. See page 2 for more.



United they stand

Members of the 127th MPs train and coach Iraqi Police in West Baghdad to help improve security, protect police stations and provide needed law enforcement. See pages 14 and 15.

Commentary

Feedback: What are you looking forward to and what will you miss about leaving Iraq?



Staff Sgt. Luke Plant
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1-501st Aviation, Hanau

"I'm looking forward to getting to see my new son and my wife. My son is nine months old. He's huge. The last time I saw him he fit in my hands. I'll miss the experience and some of the people."



Pfc. Christopher Vann
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden

"I'm looking forward the most to seeing my mom. The last time I saw her was Nov. 24 right before I came to Germany. I'll miss the money."



Spc. Sunshine McGhee
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1st Armored Division, Wiesbaden

"Mostly I'm looking forward to seeing my family on leave. And mostly I'll miss my friends."



Pvt. 2 Kimberly Ashby
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,
1-501st Aviation, Hanau

"I won't miss crap about Iraq. I'm looking forward to seeing my family. I last saw them in January."



Spc. Sarah Buchko
501st Military Police Company, Baumholder

"I'm looking forward to real showers and food, and a change of weather. I like Baumholder better than this place. I'm looking forward to the rain and the terrible weather. I think I'll miss the fact that I'm doing something here — making a difference."

Be safe, make it home

Summertime fun has hidden risks. U.S. Army Europe's summer safety campaign addresses key areas of vehicle accident and heat injury prevention, and recreation safety.

Automobile safety is the top concern, said Dave Scott, USAREUR safety manager. Six Soldiers have died in car crashes so far this year, three times more than in the same period last year. USAREUR Soldiers need to make safety a personal issue and consciously anticipate danger, he said.

Driving on secondary roads has been particularly hazardous. Drivers are at risk of underestimating the time it takes to pass and the speed of oncoming traffic. "Soldiers, civilians and family members need to be prepared to drive defensively. Relax, be patient and enjoy the scenery," Scott said.

Travel safety tools are available on the web at the USAREUR home page, www.hqusareur.army.mil, to help Soldiers and families plan trips, assess risks and in-

spect their vehicles before hitting the road. Allowing adequate travel time, especially for making return trips, is critical, said officials.

"Don't wait until the last minute to return and then feel the need to speed or drive through the night," said Mike Willoughby, Installation Management Agency-Europe safety manager. He urged travelers to plan routes that avoid traffic jams, construction sites and other potential dangers.

Travelers should also be prepared for mechanical and medical emergencies. Be sure to have medical coverage while on vacation. Know how to contact emergency services at your destination and while en route.

Prepare and carry an emergency kit when on the road, said Willoughby. Travelers should also leave a copy of their itinerary, credit card numbers, travel documents, prescriptions and a spare house key with a trusted friend or family member — someone who can be reached in an emergency.

Letter to the editor

To the editor,

I wonder if you would be willing to forward a note of thanks to all those who were responsible for the event that left so many of us amazed at the kindness shown to us at Hessenpark June 24.

I suppose none of us really knew what we were coming to when we received the invitation. It just sounded like a nice place to take the children for the day and see another aspect of German life. We looked at the website and it looked interesting.

Never in our wildest dream did we expect to be greeted by so many policemen directing traffic, the helpful people along the path and the gift of a disposable camera and free meal coupons. At this point it dawned on me this was probably more than an outing at a park.

As we turned the corner, music played and people everywhere were handing gifts to my children and offering us food and drinks. We were shocked. It crossed my mind that there were a lot of Americans there, and I wondered if this would make a good target. My fears were quickly driven away by the amount of security. I felt I could relax.

The children went crazy when they saw the kid stuff — the bubbles, the Legos and the bouncy castles were a hit. We toured the park and enjoyed all the special stops: the rope maker, the blacksmith and the wheel maker.

I stood back and observed people smiling and laughing, something I haven't seen a lot of in recent months among the military com-

munity. It has been very difficult with the Soldiers gone and families separated, and this day was a day that was truly a gift — the gift of a break from the everyday reality at hand.

Thank you to all who made this day possible. It was truly a success, and the kindness will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Sincerely,
The Nason family



Staff Sgt. Daniel Carmichael (left) and Sgt. Dale Waldrep, both of Wackernheim's 1-4th Air Defense Artillery, along with Jaiden and Terri Carmichael enjoy potato pancakes at Hessenpark. See page 28 for the story.

Herald Union

The Herald Union is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper published under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the 104th Area Support Group. Contents of the Herald Union are not necessarily the official views of, nor endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. The editorial content is the responsibility of the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office. No payment will be made for contributions. This is a biweekly publication printed by The Stars and Stripes in Griesheim, Germany. Our office is in Building 1205 on Hanau's Yorkhof Kaserne. Circulation is 13,000 copies. For advertising rates contact Fred Schneider at civ (06155) 601-295, mil 349-8295 or schneiderf@mail.estripes.osd.mil.

Commander 104th Area Support Group

Col. George A. Latham II

104th ASG Command Sergeant Major

CSM Jose A. Fontanez

104th ASG Public Affairs Officer

Raino Schareck

Newspaper staff

Editor.....Karl Weisel
Associate Editor.....David Ruderman
221st BSB Reporter.....Cassandra Kardeke (mil 337-5772)
222nd BSB Reporter.....Ignacio Rubalcava (mil 485-6191)
284th BSB Reporter.....Alexandra Williams (mil 343-6597)
414th BSB Reporter.....Dennis Johnson (mil 322-1600)

Address: 104th ASG, Herald Union, Unit 20193 Box 0001, APO AE 09165-0001; or, Herald Union, Yorkhof Kaserne, Bldg. 1205, Chemnitz Str. 2-4, 63452 Hanau.
Telephone: mil 323-3257, civ (06181) 180-3257. Fax: civ (06181) 14029.
Email: hesherald@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil.
Home page: www.104thasg.hanau.army.mil.

Iraq — 14 months later

News flash

Accessing group life insurance accounts

Veterans can now access their Veterans Group Life Insurance accounts at any time by computer or telephone. Veterans can obtain basic information on their account through the insurance website at www.insurance.va.gov. This includes being able to view current amount of coverage, premium rates, billing methods and being able to update billing address. A calculator showing veterans the recommended amount of life insurance based on their financial information is also available on the website. Veterans can also access their account information through a new VGLI interactive voice response system by phone. Call 1-800-419-1473, day or night. (VA News Release)

Go online to document military know-how

Soldiers can now use their Social Security number and Defense Finance and Accounting System myPay Personal Identification Number to access their personal Verification of Military Experience and Training Document, DD Form 2586, on the web. VMET is used to verify "the scope of a military career and training" when transitioning to a civilian career, officials said. Having access to the document online at www.dmdc.osd.mil/vmet makes updating the document a snap, officials added. (IMA-E Public Affairs)

Retired Soldiers sought

The Army's Casualty and Memorial Affairs Operations Center seeks qualified retired Soldiers for voluntary recall to active duty for a one-year tour of duty, with possible extension. CMAOC is the Army's policy proponent and operations center for worldwide casualty reporting and casualty notification to Soldiers' families. Duty locations include the Army Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va.; the Joint Personal Effects Depot at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and the port mortuary at Dover, De. Government housing and dependent travel are not authorized; however, full per diem and housing allowance may be authorized depending on the location of primary residence. For more information browse to https://www.2xcitizen.usar.army.mil/soldierservices/mobilization/retireemob_vol.asp or send an email to john.melville@hoffman.army.mil. (Hanau ACAP)

Health care and travel

Have a question about Tricare medical coverage while traveling in Europe or the United States? Ever wondered about dental coverage for family members overseas? Not sure if your children are covered while attending school in the United States. The Tricare-Europe website, www.europe.tricare.osd.mil features information on these and other health-related topics. (Tricare-Europe Release)

Advance party signals end is near

First wave of 1st AD Soldiers heads home from Kuwait

By Dennis Johnson
and Karl Weisel

414th Base Support Battalion and 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Offices

The sudden smiles on the faces of war-hardened Soldiers boarding buses June 19 at Kuwait's Camp Doha told the story. More than 100 Soldiers from 1st Armored Division's advance party were on their way home with thousands of Germany-based 1st AD Soldiers not far behind.

"It feels pretty good," said Lt. Col. Thomas James, division operations officer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Armored Division. "We're pretty proud of what we've done. I think the biggest thing is how the American Soldier adapts. It doesn't matter what your job specialty is. ... I'm just proud to have been a part of it."

James' face lit up when he said how much he looked forward to seeing his family in Butzbach, having passed up the opportunity to go on R&R leave during the 14-month deployment to Iraq.

"I feel OK," said 1st Sgt. David Swaine, 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment, as he boarded a bus in Kuwait on his way home to Hanau. Swaine mentioned having mixed feelings as he was leaving his Soldiers behind in Iraq while he was on his way to attend advanced Army schooling.

Camp Doha was gearing up to welcome thousands of 1st Armored Division troops on their way home after having served extended duty in Iraq. Redeployment operations recently moved north from Camp Wolverine which had originally processed service members on their way in and out of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Theater.

The camp was shut down and operations moved farther north after the Kuwaiti government decided to use the area as a commercial



Photo by Karl Weisel
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Savell, Desperado Troop, 1-1st Cavalry, troop standardization instructor pilot, smiles as he boards a bus at Camp Doha, Kuwait, on his way home to Büdingen.

zone around the Kuwait International Airport, according to Kelvin Hessling, movement control team supervisor at Camp Doha.

"We've absorbed a much larger piece of the pie," said Hessling, describing the massive movement of people expected during the 1st AD redeployment. "We're responsible for ensuring that the manifests come out right and that everybody gets on the buses."

Ensuring a smooth transition through Kuwait is the goal both during redeployment and for Rest and Recuperation travelers, he said, adding that it's not seamless yet, but they are working hard to ensure everything works out. "We're getting better at it," he said.

"This is the first group [1st AD's advance party] using the single ticket flight system here in Kuwait, which we're using just for

these advance parties," said Master Sgt. Janet Newell, noncommissioned officer for 1st AD's HHC, G1 Plans and Operations. "Before we needed two requests to get from Iraq to Germany; now we need only one. They arrive from Iraq from different units on military transports and gather here to get on a commercial flight. People used to stay here two or three days before going home, now we're more efficient. The concept is that they shouldn't be here more than 12 hours."

"If they are redeploying units, they go through a series of briefings including the chaplains, finance, legal, medical and commanders' assessments," said Capt. Felicia McKee, of the 482nd Replacement Company from Mobile, Ala., a unit working closely with the liaison officers and transportation officials at Camp Doha. "Many of the Soldiers get the briefings at camps north of here before they come through. We're the last chance stop. We give them briefings if they haven't already gotten them. We give them a customs briefing, manifest them for the flight and each Soldier goes through a 100 percent search—including all of their bags."

During their short stay at Camp Doha Soldiers can enjoy a host of amenities including a small shopping mall complete with a food court featuring Starbucks, Hardees and several other food emporiums; Frosties and the Marble Palace recreation centers; a fully stocked library with Internet connections; a movie theater and more.

For Chief Warrant Officer 3 Doug Savell, a troop standardization pilot for 1-1st Cavalry's Desperado Troop based in Büdingen, duty in Iraq was "challenging, rewarding and at times, harrowing."

"The schedule was demanding at times, but supporting the ground units was very satisfying," said Savell, describing how 1-1st Cavalry pilots have been flying Kiowa helicopters on reconnaissance and security missions throughout 1st AD's sector around Baghdad for the past 14 months.

Savell had more than the usual anticipation about getting home soon. "I'm ecstatic. I'm rushing home — my wife's eight-and-a-half months pregnant. She's due any day and I'm trying to beat my daughter [being born] home. My wife's doing great, but she's got lots of friends and she's gotten a lot of support from family back home. We've been staying in touch by email and telephone, anything we can. We had a couple of video teleconferences. Those are nice. I got to see her tummy."

"My wife's making spaghetti for me — my favorite. And I'm looking forward to porcelain (toilets) and showers."

"I'll be happy to see my wife and daughter, and Germany," said Capt. Brad Bertinot, executive officer of Echo Troop, 1-1st Cavalry. "I think my wife and I will spend some time experiencing Europe. The toughest part of duty here was being away from my family. Day-to-day duty was at times exhausting, but it was everything we trained up for."

"We like seeing them go home," said McKee. "It felt really good to move them through. Our goal is give them a smooth transition and to send them home."



Photo by Karl Weisel
An advance party of over 100 1st Armored Division Soldiers boards buses at Camp Doha in Kuwait June 19 on their way home to Germany from Iraq.

News and features

ASG law enforcers beef up D-Day security

Have opportunity to work with Secret Service, meet President Bush

By Anemone Rueger

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Two local Army law enforcers played a major role in supporting D-Day observances in Normandy.

Lt. Col. Howard Malone, 104th Area Support Group provost marshal, and Master Sgt. Timothy P. Bowers, also with the 104th ASG PMO, joined U.S. Army Europe PMO staff to provide security at the Omaha American National Cemetery, where the U.S. and French presidents made speeches June 6.

"We were part of a 3,400-man task force," said Malone. "We constructed two Logistic Support Areas, one at Utah Beach and one at Omaha Beach.

"There were four events the task force provided security for," he said. "Half the folks were at LSA Utah supporting the 600-paratrooper jump at Ste. Mere Eglise on June 5 to re-enact the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions jump into Normandy, and the American ceremony at Utah Beach June 6.

"The presidential ceremony was for us what they call the center of gravity," said Malone. Apart from the overall responsibility of securing the tactical operations centers and living compounds, Military Police worked with French gendarmes to control traffic and to ensure access to the ceremony for distinguished visitors while sweeping every vehicle to make sure the site was safe.

"It was made clear to us that our mission was to honor the World War II veterans," Malone said. "They even set aside some security rules to ensure the veterans could get in. That made it more difficult for us, but it showed the White House emphasis."

There were five different security agencies at the cemetery, Malone said. These included the U.S. Secret Service, the French Secret Service, U.S. Army MPs, force protection Soldiers including a contingent from the Hanau-based 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, and the French gen-



Photo by Master Sgt. Timothy P. Bowers
Lt. Col. Howard Malone, 104th ASG provost marshal, led a team responsible for security at the 60th anniversary of D-Day.

darmes who were supporting U.S. MPs and patrolling outside restricted areas.

"I've been on active duty for 22 years and I've never had the opportunity to work with the Secret Service," Malone said, describing cooperation with them as one of the highlights of his Normandy mission.

"After the ceremony was over we shipped 14,000 people on 182 buses out of a parking lot that was smaller than the (Hanau) PX parking lot in two-and-a-half hours," he said.

Another highlight for Malone was getting to meet President George and Laura Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell. The Secret Service arranged for him, Col. James Brown, USAREUR's deputy provost marshal, and four French officers to have their pictures taken with the president to say thanks for making the visit a success.

"They were so down to earth," Malone said. "The three of them thanked every Soldier they saw. That was a special moment, especially for the young privates who were guarding the perimeters. The president called them over for a group photo and put his arms around a couple of them. They will remember that for the rest of their lives."

Malone met Mark Peterson, the 104th ASG budget officer for the Directorate of Resource Management, and also a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve. "I bumped into him

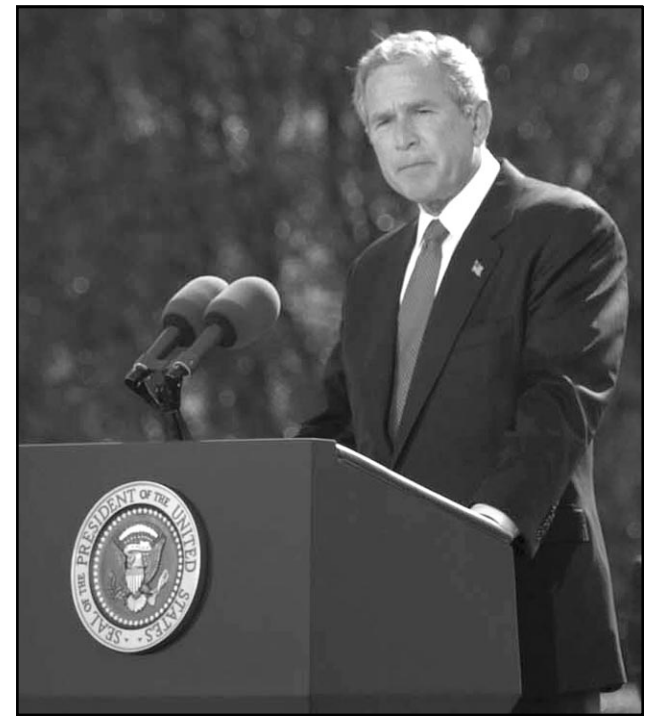


Photo by Pfc. Michael J. Taylor
President George Bush speaks to veterans and others gathered for the 60th commemoration of D-Day at the Normandy American Cemetery.

one night as we were brushing our teeth," Malone said. "He told me he was escorting the Army chief of staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker."

"I was called to Normandy by 7th ARCOM (Army Reserve Command). I didn't know who I was going to escort," said Peterson. "I thought it was quite an honor to be able to escort the general."

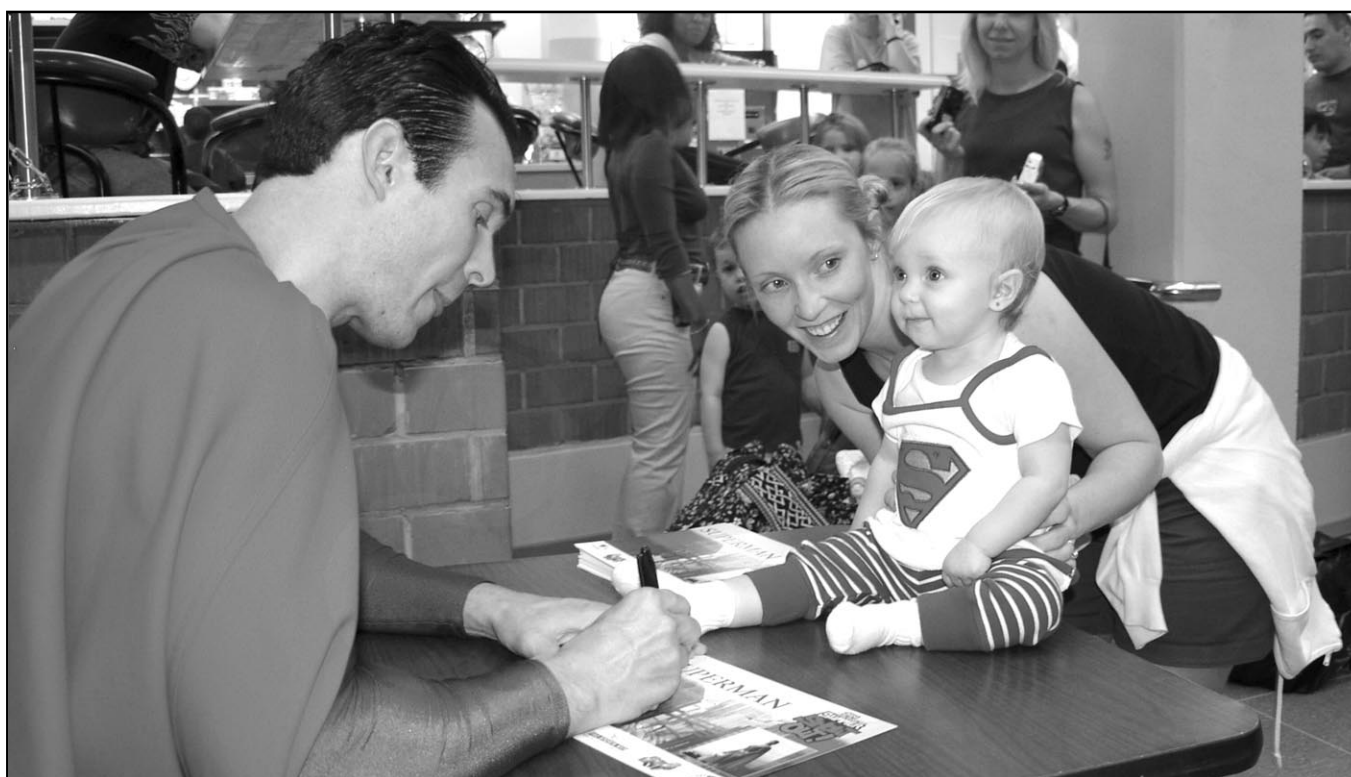
Peterson worked with the 565th Engineer Battalion from Hanau to coordinate transportation for the general and reconnaissance for different sites. He said his best memory from Normandy was getting a tour with Schoomaker of the Point du Hoc memorial bunker, a German observation bunker that was taken by American Rangers on D-Day.

"The feeling you get as a Soldier when you're at such a special place and you look at the 9,000 crosses and the beach where it all happened — it's not something you can explain in words," said Malone. "That operation changed the course of history for the 20th century, and for the veterans this was their last great chance to celebrate."

Having a super encounter at Hanau's Kids Korner

Actor Scott Cranford signs autographs for Superman fans Sydney Oleta Kosowsky, age 11 months, and mom, Keyle Kosowsky. Superman appeared at the Kids Korner at Hanau's Wolfgang Shopping Center June 29 as part of Army Europe Morale Welfare and Recreation's Summer Shout Out Program. The program is aimed at bringing celebrities to Army families in Europe as a way to relieve the stress caused by the deployment extension in Iraq. Kosowsky said she is a collector of Superman memorabilia. National Football League running back Deuce McAllister will visit Giessen July 18 and Baumholder July 19 as part of the 2004 Summer Shout Out Program.

Photo by Dennis Johnson



221st BSB – Wiesbaden, Wackernheim, Dexheim

Wiesbaden happenings

July 6 – Trip to Frankfurt Zoo or rock climbing with Outdoor Recreation

July 7 – Shopping trip to Triberg with Outdoor Recreation; bicycle clinic at Outdoor Recreation; sewing class at ACS; Dexheim Kontakt Club meets at the Single Soldier Lounge at Anderson Barracks; Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen Restaurant

July 8 – Biking trip in Frankfurt or swimming with Outdoor Recreation; free bowling

July 9 – Dining out Italian style with the Kontakt Club

July 9-11 – Swiss adventure weekend with Outdoor Recreation

July 10 – Canoeing on the Rhein River with Outdoor Recreation; free trip to Warner Brothers theme park with MWR; 9-pin no-tap tournament at Dexheim Bowling Center

July 11 – Bingo at the Community Activity Center

July 14 – Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen Restaurant

July 15 – International food fair at ACS

July 17 – Free shopping trip to Triberg with MWR

July 18 – Scavenger Hunt with the Kontakt Club; bingo at the Community Activity Center

July 20 – Free trip to the Frankfurt Palmengarten with MWR

July 21 – Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen Restaurant

July 24 – Free shopping trip to Strasbourg, France, with MWR

July 25 – Bingo at the Community Activity Center

July 28 – Wiesbaden Kontakt Club meets at Kleinfeldchen Restaurant

July 31 – Free shopping trip to Frankfurt with MWR.



Commander's corner

Trash abounds in housing

Commentary by Lt. Col.
Christopher Franks
221st Base Support Battalion
commander

Trash is a stinky, messy, everyday dilemma. It is even worse when it is lying all around your neighborhood. It's a necessary evil, easily eradicated when we all do our part.

Let's face it — no one enjoys getting up at the crack of dawn to beat the trash collectors to the curb. Yet no matter where we live, be it in the United States or here in the heart of Germany, we still have to deal with our trash.

I've never had a city garbage collector open my garage and take my trash cans to the curb for me. The city of Wiesbaden refuse department has been doing just that for us for many months. They open our trash condos, pull out the bins, roll them to the curb, empty them and return them back to their homes and lock the doors. After the city finishes, Army contractors come through our hous-



Photo by Karen Edge

With proper recycling all household waste should fit within the individual trash containers. Residents are reminded to ensure trash is disposed of properly.

ing areas and pick up the remaining rubbish: those trash bags that didn't quite make it into the trash containers and left on the ground.

As of Aug. 1 the excellent service we've received from the city of Wiesbaden will no longer exist. Why? Because time is money and the city charges for the extra time it takes their personnel to complete

the process of opening the condos and locking them back up after dumping the containers. It costs more than €50,000 each year for the city to provide this service.

Beginning Aug. 1 each resident living in housing areas with trash condos will be responsible for taking their own trash containers out of the condo, placing them on the grassy medians located behind each of the enclosed condo areas, and returning them to the condos after they are emptied.

Trash will be collected every Wednesday morning as early as 5:30 a.m. Taking the containers out the night before is highly recommended or you may miss the trash collection the next morning. The city will not return to the housing area until the following Wednesday and will only dump the trash that is in the container. They will not pick up any trash lying on the ground around the condos or near the containers.

While driving through housing areas recently to determine where trash containers could be placed, I was dismayed to see the number of trash bags placed on the ground around condos. Doing this invites rodent infestation into your neighborhood and sets the conditions for disease outbreak. Be a considerate neighbor and do your part to keep housing areas clean and healthy. Trash belongs in the trash containers, not on the ground. If you are recycling properly, your household trash container is large enough to accommodate all your household refuse for one week.

We will enlist the help of area and building coordinators to identify residents who are not disposing of trash properly and action will be taken to correct the situation.

Please do your part: recycle and dispose of trash properly. Let's strive together for clean and healthy neighborhoods.